

"CONSIDER THE PHILLIES OF THE FIELD; THEY TOIL NOT, NEITHER DO THEY WIN," SAYS THE SAGE OF ROCK CREEK

Griffen Lose Opening Contest
When Desperate Attempt Fails

THE TIMES' COMPLETE SPORTING PAGES

Fans Buy Many Liberty Bonds
When Griffa Open Yanks' Year

YANKS CHOKE OFF DARING PLAY IN STOPPING GRIFFS

Griffith Sets Up Start Record

NEW YORK, April 25.—Clark Griffith hung up a new record for himself yesterday. He lost his first opening game at the Polo Grounds since taking charge of the Washington club.

Griffith's duty seems to be to usher into the league as many of his successors as possible. He officiated in the inaugurations of Hal Chase, Frank Chance, and Bill Donovan. Yesterday he added Miller Huggins to his list.

Huggins is the first to turn around and trim the Old Fox out of the opening victory.

By W. H. SLOCUM.

NEW YORK, April 25.—The Yankees and Griffen continue to play games that remain in doubt up to the final out in the ninth inning. Twice in the three games played by these clubs at Washington last week the winner was in doubt to the finish, and the opener at the Polo Grounds was on the same order. Shotton was on a dash to the plate with what would have been the tying run yesterday, when Peck tagged him between first and second base, ending the game.

A game rally by the Griff in the ninth inning was the outstanding feature of the opening game. For eight innings Allen Russell had set the Capital City crowd down with three scattered hits, and the Yankees collected fourteen off Doc Ayers in the last six frames. The result of this effort was that the Huggins troupe was away to a 5-0 advantage when the fifth inning had been completed. Russell's wildness and a double by Lavan enabled the Nationals to grab off two runs in the eighth, and in the ninth hits by Foster, Shotton, and Lavan, with a pass to Alsmith, spelled more trouble.

With score 3 to 4 in the Yanks' favor, Shotton on third base and Lavan on first, Huggins sounded the rally. Russell, and called upon Slim Love to check the rally. It was a troublesome spot for any pitcher, and Love is not noted for his steadiness. But he managed to pull through safely. Milan popped to Hannah for the second out, and then, with Shanks at bat, Griffith gave the wigwag to his speedy base runners to try the double steal. Lavan made one start and Hannah drove him back. On his second try the Yankee catcher made a good throw to Pratt, and Lavan began to run up and down the lines to let Shotton breathe over with the tying run. Bert finally made his dash, but before he could complete it Peck tagged Lavan, and the game was over.

Huggins will call upon Mogridge or Caldwell for the second game of the series here today, the southpaw being the favorite for the assignment. Caldwell's arm is not yet ready and Huggins is not willing to take any chances trying to hurry it along. He is leaving it entirely in Caldwell's hands, and the veteran will be allowed to start as soon as he feels that the salary wing is ready.

It is expected that Harry Harper, who usually puzzles the Yankees, will do the flinging for the visitors, with Walter Johnson getting his chance in the Friday or Saturday game.

McGRATH WILL LEAD PERSONNEL PLAYERS

J. L. McGrath will lead the Personnel A. C., of the personnel division, O. Q. M. G., which will compete in the newly formed Departmental League. Charles Greenfield is the manager and I. S. Fetterhoff, secretary.

The team will be picked from the following players: Rich, Frayer, Leibowitz, Moore, Quinn, DeLoach, Burns, Stuart, Krause, Grollman, McCaslin, Bagbee, Geiser, Myers, Fetterhoff, Mingus, Blay, Newton, Dullin, Capolotti, Maher, Wheeler, and Fry.

Buy a Liberty Bond TODAY FANS GO, JUST THE SAME.

DETROIT, April 25.—Though a car strike compelled the fans to walk or ride in any kind of a conveyance they could find, 15,621 visitors saw the opening game of the American League season here, cheering on the Indians, 5 to 2. Before the game Bill Donovan questioned off an autographed ball for \$300, which was given the local navy recruiting office.

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How Do They Do It?



CROWD IS SMALL BUT BOND SALE FIGURES ARE GOOD

NEW YORK, April 25.—The opening day crowd here did not go much above the 10,000 mark. The day was a trifle cool for baseball, and the Yankees were handicapped in their start by the fact that the Giants already had opened the season here and had been playing home for more than a week.

The Liberty bond sale was a rushing business at this particular opening. It was announced in the eighth inning, that the sales up to that time, had amounted to \$111,350, and the sales still were going on. Col. Jacob Ruppert, of the Yankees, subscribed for \$65,000 worth of bonds. Lieut. Marty McHale, formerly with the Red Sox, Yankees, and Indians, was in charge of one booth.

Nick Altrock, who always makes a big hit with local fans, was at his best and found a very responsive crowd. He entertained the fans with his funny antics at first base before the game and on the coaching lines after the game began, drawing many a laugh for his efforts.

Clyde Milan made a marvelous catch in the sixth inning, robbing Hannah of a hit. Milan ran far from his position, took a header and reached the ball, but managed to hold it.

The Nationals were quiet while the Yankees were pooling Doc Ayers, then began to hit the ball after Ayers and Jim Shaw were holding the Yanks helpless. Doc began to be effective just about the time it was necessary to remove him for a pinch hitter.

Schulte and Johnson had opportunities to shine as pinch hitters. The former, who had been a star in the carried over Washington's first run, Johnson's effort was a pop fly to Pratt.

SOLDIERS WILL LEARN SWIMMING EVERYWHERE

Swimming is to be taught soldiers in the training camps this summer as a military requirement, according to the plans of the War Department commission on training camp activities, which has charge of camp athletics. The instruction will be conducted scientifically. First the soldiers will be taught on land how to breathe correctly, and then the different strokes and motions of a swimmer. Next they will enter the water where the course will be completed. In this way it is hoped to teach every man the aquatic art.

BASEBALL IN BRIEF.

The Griffen are in the cellar today.

Burns' homer gave Gregg a victory over Ruth yesterday.

Jim Bagby bumped into a beating on his first attempt to twirl.

Harry Hooper, a southpaw hitter, grabbed three clean hits in New York tries of Gregg, a southpaw slinger.

The Giants, with seven wins and no defeats, are working a joke of the campaign for the National League flag.

Justin Fitzgerald, the Phillies' outfielder, has escaped army service because of a bad leg and a weak heart.

Jim Vaughn, once with the Yanks and Griffen, twirled a one-hit game yesterday against the St. Louis Cardinals.

Eddie Foster managed to play nine whole innings yesterday in New York without making an error. Morgan was back at second.

Al Waldauer, rookie pitcher with the Griffen, has been shunted to Atlanta. When Gherity joins the army, Waldauer, the Atlanta catcher, will report to the Washington club. Weak hitting lost him his Mackinnon's job.

Cleveland, despite its loss of ten players in the military draft, is moving right along with the Boston Red Sox. The Indians are hitting well and getting capable pitching. The combination is excellent in baseball.

Only two major league clubs, the Dodgers and the Braves, in the old circuit, look weaker in the standings than the Griffen. The Dodgers have yet to win a game, while the Braves have taken but one out of seven.

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Starts Off With Poor Form



Al Marnaux was supposed to help the Brooklyn Dodgers, but his work so far has been poor. In the first start the Phillies knocked him out of the box. Now Charlie Ebbets wonders if that trade made last winter will turn out to be a bloomer.

Basketball Attracts 118,000 Soldiers in One Year's Activity

In round figures, 118,000 soldiers in the military training camps participated in organized basketball alone last season, according to a compilation made from the reports of camp athletic directors to Dr. Joseph E. Ruff, member of the War Department commission on training camp activities in charge of camp athletics. This figure, Dr. Ruff says, does not apply to the rank and file who have played informally, and would bring the number much nearer 150,000, which means that more men have taken part in competitive basketball this year than ever before.

AMERICAN LEAGUE.

W. L. Pct.	Philadelphia, 3 4 .429
Boston, 2 2 .500	St. Louis, 2 2 .500
Detroit, 1 1 .500	Chicago, 1 1 .500
New York, 1 1 .500	Washington, 1 1 .500

Yesterday's Games.

New York, 5; Washington, 2.	Philadelphia, 4; Boston, 1.
Chicago, 4; Detroit, 2.	St. Louis, 3; Cleveland, 1.

Where They Play Today.

Washington at New York.	Boston at Philadelphia.
Chicago at St. Louis.	Cleveland at Detroit.

NATIONAL LEAGUE.

W. L. Pct.	St. Louis, 4 1 .800
Philadelphia, 3 1 .750	Pittsburgh, 2 1 .667
Chicago, 2 1 .667	Boston, 1 1 .500
Cleveland, 1 1 .500	Washington, 1 1 .500

Yesterday's Games.

New York, 6; Brooklyn, 2.	Philadelphia, 4; Boston, 1.
Chicago, 4; Detroit, 2.	St. Louis, 3; Cleveland, 1.

Where They Play Today.

St. Louis at Chicago.	New York at Brooklyn.
Philadelphia at Boston.	Cincinnati at Pittsburgh.

BIG LEAGUE BIFFERS OF A DAY.

Hooper, Red Sox, 3	1	1	1.000
Lambert, Indians, 3	1	1	1.000
Blair, Yanks, 2	1	1	.667
O'Neill, Indians, 2	1	1	.667
Duck, Phils, 2	1	1	.667
Shank, Phils, 2	1	1	.667

MIKE MOWRY JUMPS.

BALTIMORE, April 25.—Mike Mowry, the veteran third baseman, has jumped the Orioles, and is believed that he will play with the Baltimore Orioles.

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ONLY FIVE CLUBS KEEP THEIR LEADOFF BATTERS

By LOUIS A. DOUGHER.

Out of sixteen major league clubs, only five have the same lead-off man this year as they had in 1917. Four of these, Chicago, Boston, New York, and Cleveland, are in the American League. The Cincinnati Reds are the only National League club to retain its 1917 lead-off, but Heinie Groh is a star at the task.

Nemo Leibold still shows up first for the White Sox, Jack Graney for the Cleveland Indians, and Frank Gilheoley for the New York Yankees. The latter, however, may lose his place because of weak hitting.

Podr of the National League's lead-off hitters are new to the circuit this season. Ross Young, with the Giants, was with the International League last year, and displaced a fine player in George Burns, considered by many the best lead-off batsman in the Tenor organization.

Hollock, with the Cubs, is a fresh man from the Pacific Coast League, who looks like a real major leaguer.

Pirates Have Caston. The Pittsburgh Pirates have little Caston, a chubby, sawed-off lad, as a pinch hitter for the first time at the opponents' twirling.

Roy Massey, sent to Minneapolis by Clark Griffith, is playing left field for the Braves and leading the batting order. So far he is finding National League pitching no more difficult than that in the American Association.

Dode Paskert's old job with the Phillies is now being cared for by Bancroft. Ivan Olson, with Brooklyn, and Betel, with St. Louis, make up the National League's lead-off men for 1918.

Shorton Has Old Job. Bert Shorton has his old job of leading off the batting order, but he is doing it for the Griff this year instead of for the Browns.

Johnny Tobin, who performed in the Coast League in 1917, is leading off for the Browns.

Leo Dreesen, the St. Paul first baseman, has displaced Donie Bush as the first baseman in the Tigers' line-up, and doing well.

Connie Mack is alternating between Merlin Kopp and "Cuckoo" Jamieson for his lead-off man, with either one having a chance of succeeding Lawton Witt.

GOLFERS DECLARE FAULTY SEASONING FATAL FOR SHAFTS

It's a matter of history that the shafts on the golf clubs of today are about 50 per cent worse than those of five years ago. With less spring to them and an almost total absence in many cases of that snap an essential to a good shaft, those sticks put into golf clubs today are decidedly inferior to those made prior to 1912. It is not the fault of the professional, for the shafts' fault, if it is so hard to obtain in such suitable quantities and quality that rarely is a fine shipment found.

One professional claims that out of 100 shafts recently received by him in many cases of that snap an essential to a good shaft, those sticks put into golf clubs today are decidedly inferior to those made prior to 1912. It is not the fault of the professional, for the shafts' fault, if it is so hard to obtain in such suitable quantities and quality that rarely is a fine shipment found.

Whether the new steel shafts recently put on the market will solve the problem is a question. It has been claimed that wooden heads split rather easily when steel is inserted, and more so when the club is used in wet weather and swells. The balls leave a steel shaft club with a sweet feeling, one perfectly comparable with that of a well hit sphere from a wooden shafted weapon.

It is certain that golfers who have been using poor wooden shafts will turn with relief to the steel constructed club, and they really will have a valid excuse for the change after seeing a well hit ball torn off at right angles or do some freakish stunt in the air. Shafts are in some cases so bad that after short usage they become impossible.

Often the professional himself can't tell until after the implement has been tried out. When he selects a shaft in the rough without being tapered down it probably has the proper feel and hand, and only after a couple of weeks' use does it become limp and whippy.

MEETS VILLA NOVA.

Catholic University will play Villa Nova here on Saturday at Brookland.

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"TIS, TAINT," FROM TWO NEWS SOURCES ABOUT BIG BATTLE

(By United Press.)

CHICAGO, April 25.—"It's all off," Jess Willard said today, regarding his proposed Fourth of July bout with Fred Fulton. Despite the seeming assurance of Promoter J. C. Miller, who returned from St. Paul today, the champion declared the match could not be staged.

"The opposition encountered at St. Paul and the fact it is growing makes it look as if I will not get a chance at Fulton," he said.

A permit to stage the fight will be granted or refused after a joint hearing by the Minnesota public safety and boxing commissions at St. Paul on May 4.

(By International News.)

CHICAGO, April 25.—Jess Willard today emphatically denied that he has called off his fight with Fred Fulton.

It Was a Good Lie— But Only for Player Who Was a Forkhander

A golfer had with him a caddy who was noted for his prong and sarcasm. It was a day on which the player's ball seemed to find every bunker on the course, and on one occasion he pulled his ball into a sand trap. As he walked up, anxious as to his fate, he shouted to the boy, who was standing by the trap:

"Is my ball lying well?"

He replied in his best manner, "Fine, if you were left-handed."

The ball was unplayable, as the golfer was not ambidextrous.

and declared statements that he had or intended to were manufactured, and not authorized by him.

"It's the work of knockers," said Willard. "I'm signed to fight, and unless Promoter Miller gives up, I'll go through with my contract."

Miller is out back in Chicago today. He will remain in town a few days and will then go East. It is reported that Baltimore has made him an offer to bring the fight there, and that he is going to see what can be done.

CHRISTY MATHEWSON WANTED 'OVER THERE'

NEW YORK, April 25.—Christy Mathewson, famous baseball pitcher and manager of the Cincinnati Reds, has received an appeal from the American expeditionary forces asking him to "come over" and take charge of the baseball in France.

The appeal to Mathewson came through the War Personnel Board at the Young Men's Christian Association after his selection by a vote of a majority of the men in France.

ZIEGLER FOR COLGATE.

HAMILTON, N. Y., April 25.—Ray Ziegler, former star pitcher at the University of Pennsylvania, will coach the Colgate eleven next season. Ziegler played for Penn in 1907, 1908, and 1909, and has been coaching since leaving college. For the past two seasons he has been at California University.

DAILY PITCHES IT.

Forest Daly, Central's captain and center fielder, pitched the 21. Pennant side to a 1-0-0 win over Alexandria High School on the Monument Lot yesterday.

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